

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

concerning

**ADOPTION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (NPDES PERMIT)  
AND  
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER  
FOR  
BULLION RIVER GOLD  
CORPORATION, FRENCH GULCH (NEVADA) MINING CORPORATION,  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON MINE  
SHASTA COUNTY**

The Washington Mine complex is partially owned by Bullion River Gold Corporation (BRGC) and operated by French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation (FGNMC). Unpatented claims are owned by the Federal government and administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The mine is operated by BRGC and BLM. Mine drainage from several mine adits flows via gravity to both Scorpion Gulch and French Gulch, waters of the United States. BRGC and FGNMC proposed to pump approximately 0.423 million gallons of water per day from the mine workings, treat the water, and discharge it to Scorpion Gulch. The operators also proposed to either cease the discharge of mine drainage from the mine adits and/or treat these discharges to appropriate standards prior to discharging to surface waters.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) will consider adoption of a new NPDES permit (referred to as Waste Discharge Requirements or WDRs), proposing new effluent limitations for numerous metals, ammonia, BOD, chlorine, electrical conductivity, nitrate, nitrite, oil and grease, pH, TDS, total petroleum hydrocarbons, TSS, methyl isobutyl carbonol, and potassium amyl xanthate. The Discharger is unable to immediately comply with the new effluent limitations from the existing adits which drain via gravity and therefore a Cease and Desist Order with a time schedule for compliance is proposed to be adopted concurrently.

A public hearing to address this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting which is scheduled for:

DATE: 17/18/19 March 2010  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Bullion River Gold Corporation and French Gulch (Nevada) Corporation Representatives
- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management representatives

Designated parties but not interested persons will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. Central Valley Water Board staff will prepare the administrative record, and may present evidence, make an oral presentation and cross-examine opposing witnesses.

Interested persons may not cross examine witnesses, and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence is submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Board no later than **15 February 2010**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is affected by the discharge.

The tentative Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R5-2010-XXXX and Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2010-XXXX were issued on 12 January 2010. Persons wishing to comment on these items must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than by **5:00 pm on 15 February 2010**. Written materials submitted after 5:00 pm on the above date will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Board members, counsel staff or others, at the discretion of the Board.

Anyone having questions on the tentative permit for the **Washington Mine** should contact Phil Woodward at **(530) 224-4853**. Interested parties may download the proposed Order and related documents from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/). Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Board's office at 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002-0129 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/)

Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Board's website at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml) or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



11 January 2010

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Kenneth D. Landau  
Assistant Executive Officer

PVW: knr